

# SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger

Twitter @rsnbrgr

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Date(s): VARIOUSLY DATED

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☒ ALL ☐ Selected Papers ☒ Except

PHOTOGRAPHS

14 May 56  
June 56  
6 June 56 - 26 June 58

LIEUTENANT GENERAL DEAN C. STROTHER, USAF

Dean C. Strother was born at Winfield, Kansas, Feb. 12, 1908, the son of Dr. and Mrs. J. O. Strother. After graduating from Winfield High School, he attended Southwestern College for two years. In 1927, he received an appointment to the U. S. Military Academy from which he was graduated in June 1931, and commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry.

In September 1931, General Strother enrolled in the Air Corps Primary Flying School at Randolph Field, Texas, and was graduated in June 1932. He then entered the Air Corps Advanced Flying School at Kelly Field, Texas, from which he was graduated in October 1932 as a pilot. A month later he was assigned to the 55th Squadron of the 20th Pursuit Group at Barksdale Field, La., and in January 1933, was transferred to the Air Corps. The following April he became post athletic officer at Barksdale Field. While at this station he married Miss Julia Taylor, of Austin, Tex.

From March to May 1934, General Strother was on air mail duty and assigned to the Air Mail Detachment of the Municipal Airport at Chicago, Ill. In March 1935, he returned to his assignment at Barksdale Field, becoming engineering officer of the 55th Pursuit Squadron. Two years later he joined the Air Corps Detachment at Sherman Field, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., as instrument flying instructor and assistant engineering officer. He went to Luke Field, Hawaii, in July 1937, where he flew Douglas B-18 and Martin B-12 bombers with the 72nd Bombardment Squadron.

General Strother was assigned, in March 1939, to Randolph Field as flying instructor at the Air Corps Training Center. In July 1940, he became assistant adjutant of the Gulf Coast Air Corps Training Center at Randolph Field, and in February 1941, was named post adjutant. He became assistant director of training at the center in November 1941.

In July 1942, General Strother became staff fighter officer of the U. S. Army Forces in the South Pacific area, and when the 13th Air Force was organized in January 1943, was appointed chief of the Fighter Command. From July to December 1943, he headed an expanded outfit, the Solomon Islands Fighter Command, directing U. S. Army and Navy and New Zealand fighters who helped turn back the Japanese threatening Australia. His work there won him the Distinguished Service Medal. In January 1944, he served a short tour of duty as commanding general of the San Francisco Fighter Wing in San Francisco, Calif.

General Strother flew to Italy in February 1944, to command the 306th Fighter Wing of the 15th Air Force, and the following October assumed command of the 15th Fighter Command. For his services during this time he was awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Medal.

From Italy, General Strother personally led a United States fighter task force to Russia to provide direct assistance for the Russian offensive in the East. During this operation, he won the Silver Star for gallantry in action. In June 1945, he was assigned to Air Transport Command Headquarters at Gravelly Point, Va., for indoctrination in ATC policies and procedures.

In October 1945, General Strother assumed command of the West Coast Wing of ATC's Pacific Division, with headquarters at Hamilton Field, Calif. During January 1946, he was stationed at Hickam Field, Hawaii, as acting commanding general of the Pacific Division of ATC. He then was appointed commanding general of the West Coast Wing of ATC at San Francisco, Calif.

General Strother entered the National War College in August 1946, and was graduated the following June. That same month he became chief of the Military Personnel Division of A-1 at Air Force Headquarters, and after the establishment of USAF Headquarters in September was designated director of Military Personnel in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel at Air Force Headquarters in October 1950, and a month later was designated Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

General Strother was appointed special assistant to the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe, with station at Wiesbaden, Germany in March 1951, and later that month assumed command of the 12th Air Force, also at Wiesbaden. In addition, in April 1952, he was appointed commander of the 4th Allied Tactical Air Force in Central Europe, composed of French, Canadian, and United States tactical units allocated to SHAPE. He was appointed deputy commander of the Air University in October 1953, and acting commander, Air University in May 1955. General Strother was appointed commander, Air University, 6 June 1956.

Other than the decorations mentioned above, General Strother has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, World War II Victory Medal, American Defense Medal, European Theater Ribbon with five battle stars, the Asiatic Ribbon with three battle stars, the German Occupation Ribbon, Order of the British Empire, Croix de Guerre (French) and the Greek Distinguished Service Medal. He is rated as a command pilot.

General and Mrs. Strother have one daughter, Julia Ann, who was born in 1939.

END

Up to date as of 7 November 1956

Headquarters  
AIR UNIVERSITY  
United States Air Force  
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

19 December 1957

Mr. Clyde C. Pearson  
Montgomery Chamber of Commerce  
P. O. Box 79  
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Pearson:

Upon the occasion of your retirement as the President of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, I wish to express the sincere appreciation of the Air University for the fine cooperation we have had from you and your organization during your tenure.

Services offered by the Chamber of Commerce have made Montgomery an excellent city in which to conduct our activity as the professional education center of the Air Force. Your personal contributions to the betterment of personnel and facilities at Air University have been substantial.

Please accept my best wishes for the future. You may be assured that your successor will enjoy the same fine relationship with Air University that we have mutually built upon in the past.

Sincerely,

D. C. STROTHER  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Commander

Copy for Col Macomber

A-24 Priority

O YQ108 VDC124 TVD163 TMA130 TTF115HQC030

PP RBFRG RBEPLC RJEDWP RJEDDK RJEDMH RJEDEN RJESYQ RJESGL

DE RJEPHQ 864

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5 Sept - 11340

FM HEDUSAF WASHDC

TO RBFRG/COMAIRSOUTH NAPLES ITALY

RBEPLC/CHIEF USAFDEL JBUSMC RIO DE JANEIRO

HEDWP/COMAMC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEDDK/COMATC SCOTT AFB ILL

RJEDMH/COMSAC OFFUTT AFB OMAHA NEBR

RJEDEN/COMAIRDEFCOM ENT AFB COLO

RJESYQ/COMAIRU MAXWELL AFB ALA

RJESGL/COMAPGC EGLIN AFB FLA

AFGRNC

5224

BT

PERSONAL FOR COMMANDER FROM O'DONNELL 48753 THE PRESIDENT,  
EFFECTIVE THIS DATE, APPOINTED MAJOR GENERAL DEAN C. STROTHER,  
591A, TO THE TEMPORARY GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL, USAF. GENERAL  
STROTHER REMAINS AS COMMANDER, AIR UNIVERSITY.

BT

05/1608Z SEP RJEPHQ

5 SEP 79 10 23Z

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Alt - 14 Priority

YQ057 XVC096 QXB093PQC094HHUWYF

PP R/ESYQ

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FM COMFEAF FUCHU AIR SYA JAPAN

TO COMEIRU MAXWELL AFB ALA

BT

5234

RADNOTE: PERSONAL FROM KUTER TO OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES, AU.  
WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU GIVE APPROPRIATE PUBLICATION TO FOLLOWING  
FROM COMFEAF, TOKYO. QUOTE. ALL COMPONENTS OF USAF IN PACIFIC AND  
FAR EAST ACCLAIM PROMOTION TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL OF DEAN C. STROTHER  
AS ABUNDANTLY DESERVED RECOGNITION OF AIR UNIVERSITY AS PRIMARY SOURCE  
OF AMERICA'S SUSTAINED STRENGTH IN THE AIR AND GENERAL STROTHER'S  
LEADERSHIP AMONG AIRMEN. UNQUOTE. END

BT

06/0259Z SEP RJAPAD

L. Beighley  
Cdr

04117

1104D

Quote from Gen Lawrence S Kutler, Commander, Far  
East Air Force:

AG-14 ROUTINE

YQ062 VVD037 TVA060HQE019

RR RJESYQ

DE RJEPHQ 1136

R 072119Z

FM HEDUSAF WASHDC

TO COMAIRU MAXWELL AFB ALA

BT

3233

UNCLAS FROM AFPDC-G 42482 FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO MAJGEN STROTHER.

PARA 2, SO 110, DAF, DATED 6 JUN 56 IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFO:

"2. MAJGEN DEAN C STROTHER, 591A, HQ AU, MAXWELL AFB, ALA, IS

REL FROM DUTY AS ACTING COMDR, AU; IS ASG DUTY AS COMDR, AU

EFF 6 JUN 56. NTI." ORDERS MAILED THIS DATE.

BT

07/2158Z JUN RJEPHQ

Col West  
~~Col. Deane (No Answer)~~  
Sgt Townsend  
0424Z  
Pick Up A.M.

0423Z

INFORMATION COPY	
TO	OIS
ACTION TO	Per
COPY FURNISHED	C/S

Headquarters, Air University  
Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

*Local & Service Journals  
Disputable / photos*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
14 May 1955

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALA.--Major General Dean C. Strother officially took over the reins of the Air University today, (Saturday) at a formal departure ceremony at Maxwell Air Force Base for Lt. Gen. Laurence S. Kuter, former Air University commander.

Commander of the Air Force's educational system for the last two years, General Kuter departed for the west coast on his way to command the Far East Air Forces in Tokyo. He receives his fourth star <sup>June 1.</sup> May 29. Mrs. Kuter will accompany him to his new post.

General Strother, vice commander of the Air University since October 1953, graduated from West Point in 1931 and from flying school in 1932. He flew the Air Mail with the Army Air Corps in 1934.

Early in World War II, General Strother was in the South Pacific directing the fighter command of the 13th Air Force. He later commanded the Solomon Islands ~~F~~ighter Command which helped turn back Japanese forces threatening Australia. In 1944 he went to Italy where he headed the 15th Fighter Command. From Italy the veteran airman led a United States fighter task force to

Russia to provide assistance to the Russian offensive in the east.

After a tour in the United States where he attended the National War College and served on the Air Staff in the Pentagon, General Strother returned to Europe in 1951. There he served as commander of the 12th Air Force and later as commander of the 4th Allied Tactical Air Force, a joint command composed of French, Canadian and U. S. tactical units under Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE).

Among his many decorations, General Strother has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Star for gallantry, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three clusters, Order of the British Empire, French Croix de Guerre and the Greek Distinguished Service Medal. He is rated a command pilot.

General and Mrs. Strother make their home at Maxwell with their daughter, Julia Ann, born in 1939. The new Air University leader was born in Winfield, Kansas, the son of Dr. and Mrs. J. O. Strother. He attended Southwestern University for two years before entering the United States Military Academy in 1927.

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12 Oct 53

Appointment of Maj. Gen. Dean C. Strother, head of the nation's tactical Air Force in Europe, as Deputy Commander of the Air University was announced simultaneously ~~yesterday (Monday)~~ by Lt. Gen. Laurence S. Kuter, Commander, Air University, and Air Force Headquarters in Washington.

General Strother will succeed Maj. Gen. John DeF. Barker who retired last Aug. 31.

"It is a genuine privilege to announce General Strother's appointment to the Air University," General Kuter said. "He is one of the real heroes of World War II in the South Pacific and helped to turn back the Japanese threat on Australia from the Solomon Islands. He then made a magnificent war record in Europe. He has outstanding qualities of leadership, and is one of the best known of Air Force officers. We at the Air University feel highly privileged to obtain his services."

A native of Winfield, Kansas, General Strother was born Feb. 12, 1908, the son of Dr. and Mrs. J. O. Strother. After graduating from Winfield High School, he attended Southwestern College for two years. In 1927, he received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy from which he was graduated in June, 1931, and commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry.

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#

FROM: COMDR AU MAFB, ALA.

TO: MAJ. GEN. J. E. SMART  
ASST. VICE CHIEF OF STAFF  
HQ USAF, WASH, DC

PERSONAL TO SMART FROM STROTHER

I HAVE LOOKED INTO THE PROBLEM OF A SUITABLE SCRIPT WRITER FOR THE TV SERIES THAT YOU MENTIONED TO ME TODAY. AIR UNIVERSITY DOES NOT HAVE THE COMPETENCE TO PERFORM THIS JOB EITHER FROM THE STAND-POINT OF A SUITABLE WRITER OR THE PROPER MATERIAL. MR. WILLIAM SHELTON HQ AIR PHOTO AND CHARTING SERVICE IS A COMPETENT SCRIPT WRITER AND AT THE PRESENT TIME ENGAGED COMPLETING "PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION OF AIR FORCE OFFICERS." WE ARE OF COURSE FURNISHING HIM MATERIAL AND ADVICE IN THIS AREA OF OUR COMPETENCE. HE IS A FORMER AF OFFICER WITH COMBAT EXPERIENCE. SINCE AMC HAS THE TECHNICAL DATA AND KNOW-HOW ON THE SUBJECT I WOULD SUGGEST THAT SHELTON WORK WITH THEM. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST IN ANYWAY WE CAN PARTICULARLY IN THE CHECKING FOR HISTORICAL ACCURACY.

UNCLASSIFIED

28 November 1955

HEADQUARTERS  
AIR UNIVERSITY  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

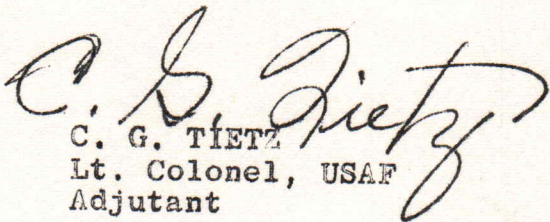
5 September 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Personnel

SUBJECT: Signature Element - Commander

Effective immediately, all correspondence prepared for the signature of the Commander, Air University, will bear the following signature element:

D. C. STROTHER  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Commander

  
C. G. TIETZ  
Lt. Colonel, USAF  
Adjutant

4 April 1957

Cadet Lieutenant Edward C. Marks  
Information Services Officer  
Arnold Air Society Conclave  
Manhattan College  
New York 71, New York

Dear Mr. Marks:

Inclosed per your request are photographs and biography of Lt. Gen. Dean C. Strother, Commander, Air University.

General Strother is temporarily away from his office. Therefore, copies of his talk will be furnished later.

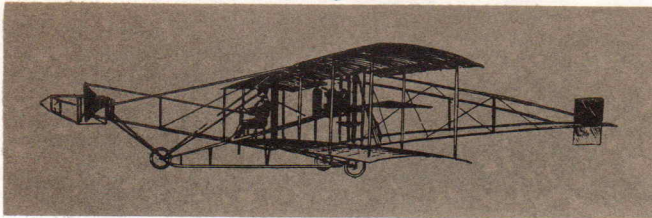
For further background information on Air University I am inclosing a "Fact Sheet" and a "Guide to Air University."

Sincerely,

GEORGE L. STANTON  
Lt Colonel, USAF  
Deputy Chief, Office of  
Information Services

Inclosures

# 50 YEARS USAF



## 8th Annual Conclave / Arnold Air Society / New York City / 1957

8th Annual Conclave Headquarters  
Major William V. Holohan Squadron  
Arnold Air Society  
Manhattan College, New York 71, N. Y.

30 March 1957

D. C. Strother  
Lt.Gen. USAF  
Commander Air University  
Maxwell Air Force Base  
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear General:

We are very pleased to know that you will be with us for our Eighth Annual National Conclave.

At present we are engaged in a vigorous publicity campaign. To assist us in this will you please send us biographical information and two (2) photographs of yourself.

Also we would appreciate three (3) copies of the speech you will give at the Conclave. These will be used for press releases and in the final report of the Conclave Committee.

Due to the proximity of the Conclave and the necessity of meeting printer's deadlines, we would appreciate this information by 4 April 1957 if at all possible.

Thank you very much for your interest and cooperation in our Society and Conclave.

Sincerely,

EDWARD C. MARKS  
C/2nd Lt AAS  
Conclave ISO

SPEECH BEFORE AFA CONVENTION

31 July 1957 - Washington, D. C.

Lieutenant General D. C. Strother

I appreciate this opportunity to speak a few minutes to this distinguished audience and present to you some of our professional educational philosophy and activity at Air University and its place in the Air Force mission. Many of you are acquainted with our program, but I believe that more of you are closer to the activities of ARDC, AMC, and other elements of the operating Air Force. Whereas, these other commands are involved in the daily operation of the Air Force, the Air University has the opportunity to place selected officers in an environment designed to stimulate their thinking and to afford them an opportunity of development, through a professional educational program. It might be well here to point out the difference of mission between Air Training Command and Air University. Air Training Command is primarily concerned with skill training - whether it might be pilot, navigator, mechanic, or radar technician - while Air University's mission is that of professional education.

In approaching my subject, I'll briefly touch on background, objectives, our general philosophy, and the guiding concepts under which Air University operates. We have set our sights high and have maintained a goal tough of attainment; however, we believe any other approach would not be good enough. Practically, we are all well aware that even partial attainment of our goal is progress. Broadly speaking, Air University provides a coordinated program of professional education for officers of the United States Air Force within one integrated school system. This program is

designed to equip officers with the knowledge and techniques necessary for assuming progressively more important assignments in command and staff positions throughout the Air Force. To us this means the development of knowledge, imagination, and vision in the present and future employment of air power. Between World War I and World War II the Air Corps was small in all respects except vision and its doctrinal thinking, and out of the old Air Corps Tactical School came many of the convictions that produced the air strategy of World War II. From this atmosphere the requirements were conceived which resulted in the development of the successful air weapons of that era, and at the same time the qualitative and quantitative urgencies of the period brought the Air Force and industry close together. But all of this started with the doctrinal revolution in the minds of professional airmen dedicated to the development of military air power. Now as time goes on we should recognize that the scientific and technological revolution of recent years, evolution in national policies, and a Korean war have been dramatic and may have tended to draw our attention away from the longer term investment we must make for the future. Several years ago General Arnold expressed this long term requirement as follows:

"Present equipment is but a step in progress and any Air Force must keep its doctrines ahead of its equipment, and its vision far into the future."

Out of this understanding, the Air University was founded in 1946 at Maxwell Air Force Base, the old home of the Air Corps Tactical School. Its first Commander, Muir S. Fairchild, whom many of you knew,

accepted his challenge in these words, which I believe convey a clear picture of what we strive to accomplish.

"The Air Force officer's thinking must be clear, vigorous, independent, and on a global scale. He must be flexible in his approach to problems and in his reaction to unusual and unforeseen situations. He must have the courage and intellectual curiosity to try new things and new methods. He must guard rigorously against believing he has learned all the answers to future war, against building up resistance to change, against taking the easy course of accepting answers from the past instead of the infinitely more difficult course of digging them out of the future."

Fortunately, our planners had the advantage of the experience of the Air Corps Tactical School. Much of the philosophy and many of the concepts employed in the ACTS were adapted to the much broader educational effort of the Air University.

Our program at Air University is designed to provide two major objectives at all levels of officer education. The purpose of one is to provide student officers the tools of their trade, to teach them techniques, to acquaint them with standardized methods, and in general -- to equip them to perform their future responsibilities as senior commanders and staff officers and meet their obligations in the air age. The other objective is to stimulate thinking. It involves the development of officers who must formulate the valid air doctrine as the realistic foundation for sound strategy, and that sound strategy serves as the basis on which to program weapons

systems. With these objectives, we live with both a challenging and an important responsibility that is centered on the conviction that as communist technology begins to close the qualitative gap in weapons systems the professional quality of men is at least as vital as ever before in our history.

With these as our general objectives, what are some of the basic concepts under which we operate? First - is the principle of academic freedom to assure freedom of thought, of expression, and creative imagination. Second - that we avoid traditonalism, rigidity of thought and doctrine, standardization of instruction, and the provision of dogmatic answers to problems of the future. Third - that ours is not a Post-War system, but a Pre-War system. Fourth - broad use of the best civilian educational methods and thoughts. Fifth - the practice of student contribution. Our successive student bodies represent thousands of man years of military experience in both war and peace. This rich source of experience is one of our most valuable resources. Sixth - the Air University seeks to truly educate, rather than to merely train or instruct, and Seventh - that the Air Force is an instrument of maintaining peace, but must be instantly ready to perform its wartime mission.

The Air University is meeting these obligations through an integrated system of educational activities beginning with the Air Force ROTC program, which is in over 180 colleges and universities, and extending up through the Squadron Officer School and Command and Staff School, to our senior school -- the Air War College.

The many complex medical problems unique to modern flight are studied in the School of Aviation Medicine. Many valuable contributions

have been made to aviation and to the aviation industry. Many more will follow. The uniformed scientists and engineers of the Air Force are developed through our Institute of Technology which maintains a resident course at Dayton and a much larger program in cooperation with American colleges, universities, and industry, in which many of you participate. Since we maintain an active research and development program in concepts and doctrine, we have a splendid military library. A Research Studies Institute is constantly at work trying to fill in vacuums in knowledge in the geophysical sciences. Very active courses are conducted in the latest developments in weapons systems.

In working toward our objectives of contributing to the development of officers capable of thinking ahead in the field of air power, our students are furnished comprehensive background material in the many areas that directly affect and influence any military considerations. Substantial coverage of economic, political, and social factors, along with advances in technology, are presented by recognized authorities and through study and seminar programs. With this background, the student can more effectively direct some imaginative thinking in considerations of the dominant role of air power in deterring total war, and in the vital problems of integrating missiles with manned aircraft. He is better equipped to consider the flexibility, speed, range, and penetrative power of air forces in their decisive contribution to the winning of limited wars. Very great emphasis is being devoted to this complex area of threat.

To prevent working in a vacuum, Air University is in close contact with the other commands of the operating Air Force which we serve, with

industry, the academic world, research groups, and others. Periodically we are looked at by an Educational Board consisting of the major commanders, our customers, for the purpose of determining the adequacy of our coverage and analyzing methods of improving the quality of our graduates. Our entire program is under continuous review, and changes are incorporated with the view to maintaining the curricula completely up to date.

In summing up -- this substantial effort is dedicated to the support of national objectives, to anticipate and prevent, where possible, and to win in war should it be necessary.

In closing, I wish to thank the Air Force Association for the opportunity to participate in this program, to outline briefly the professional educational philosophy and objectives of the Air Force, and at the same time to thank the many members of industry who have actively participated with us on our lecture platforms - and at times - as students.

END